

REPORT CLASS SECRET UNINTEL/NOFORN/NO CONTRACT INFORMATION COM

COUNTRY: AFGHANISTAN/USSR

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN PUL-I-CHARI

(DOI: SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1979)

SOURCE: A MIDDLE-LEVEL AFGHAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYE AT PUL-I-CHARI IS A NEW AND UNTESTED SOURCE. HE ACQUIRED INFORMATION FROM PARAS ONE THROUGH FOUR FROM AN AFGHAN MAJOR (AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICER AND PARAS FIVE AND SIX FROM THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OBSERVATION.

1. AT PUL-I-CHARI MILITARY GARRISON IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING TANK DRIVERS, THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTORS HAS INCREASED FROM ABOUT 18 IN LATE AUGUST TO BETWEEN 80-100 AS OF LATE OCTOBER 1979. (SOURCE COMMENT: SUB-SOURCE DOES NOT HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE OTHER AREAS OF PUL-I-CHARI BUT STATES IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT GAINED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER AFGHAN OFFICERS THAT NUMBER OF SOVIETS ASSIGNED TO OTHER AREAS OF THE GARRISON HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY.

2. AT THE PUL-I-CHARI GARRISON, THERE ARE PRESENTLY ABOUT 250 TANKS, ALL IN OPERATING CONDITION. THE TANKS WERE TAKEN FROM INSIDE THE SHEDS AT THE GARRISON, WHERE THEY WERE STORED ON THE DIRECTION OF THE SOVIET ADVISORS. SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED THAT AN ATTACK ON THE SHEDS WOULD INCAPACITATE THE TANKS. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TANKS AT THE FAC.

3. PRESENTLY THERE ARE 150 AFGHAN INDIVIDUALS GOING TANK TRAINING AT PUL-I-CHARI. THE TANKS WERE TAKEN FROM INSIDE THE SHEDS AT THE GARRISON, WHERE THEY WERE STORED ON THE DIRECTION OF THE SOVIET ADVISORS. SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED THAT AN ATTACK ON THE SHEDS WOULD INCAPACITATE THE TANKS. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TANKS AT THE FAC.

4. (SOURCE COMMENT: SUB-SOURCE STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT THE RUSSIANS (SOVIETS) HAVE TAKEN COMMAND OF THE

BARRACKS. THE DECISION MAKING POWER IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE RUSSIANS (SOVIETS). SUB-SOURCE IS DEPRESSSED BY THE FACT THE SOVIETS NOW ARE RUNNING THE AFGHAN MILITARY. HIS MORALE AND THAT OF OTHERS LIKE HIM, WHO WERE BASICALLY IS VERY LOW. (Z)

C. THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE INFLOW OF YOUNG SOVIETS INTO THE MICRO BAYON HOUSING COMPLEX. ON 27, 28, 29 AND 30 OCTOBER, BETWEEN 1600-1700 HOURS, A ROUGH COUNT WAS MADE OF YOUNG SOVIETS WATCHING AND PLAYING VOLLEYBALL ON THREE COURTS IN THE BLOCK 5 AREA. ABOUT 330 SOVIETS WERE COUNTED. (SOURCE COMMENT: PRIOR TO AUGUST 1979 THERE WAS ONLY ONE VOLLEYBALL COURT.) THE SOVIETS, SOME OF WHOM WERE DRESSED IN AFGHAN FATICHES APPEARED TO BE 21 AND 22 YEARS OLD. THEY HAD VERY SHORT "MILITARY" HAIR CUTS. IT IS EASY TO SORT THESE NEW SOVIETS OUT FROM THE SOVIET "ADVISORS". THE ADVISORS ARE OLDER, USUALLY WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES, HAVE LONGER HAIR AND ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN. (SOURCE COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ADVISORS LIVING AT THE COMPLEX AS WELL. ON 27 AND 30 OCTOBER, THREE AFGHAN, SOVIET ORIGIN, BUSES WERE BEING HANDLING SOVIET YOUNGSTERS TO SCHOOL FROM THE COMPLEX. THE BUSES WERE FULL. THE THREE HAD ABOUT 100 CHILDREN. (SOURCE COMMENT: THE SOVIETS ARE NOT ATTEMPTING TO HIDE THEIR INCREASED PRESENCE AT MICRO BAYON. IT IS ALMOST AS IF THEY ARE SAYING, WE ARE HERE TO STAY, GET USED TO US).)

D. AS ONE ENTERS THE OLD SECTION OF MICRO BAYON FROM THE WAJIR AREA AFTER CROSSING THE BRIDGE OVER THE KANJAL RIVER, IN ONE TURN LEFT, ONE WILL PASS TWO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. THE FIRST IS UNDER AFGHAN GUARD; THE SECOND, A COMMUNIST THON FACILITY, IS UNDER THE GUARD OF AFGHANS COMMANDED BY A YOUNG SOVIET. THE SOVIET WHO IS BLOND, WEARS AN AFGHAN UNIFORM WITH BETTER TAILORING--CARRIES A KEALASHNIKOV AND NIGHTLY INSPECTS HIS AFGHAN TROOPS. HE CAN BE SEEN THERE AT VARIOUS HOURS OF THE NIGHT.

7. ACQ: AFGHANISTAN, KASUL (22 OCTOBER 1979).
FIELD INFOREP NO. NRC-4132.

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